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## Montana Farm Bureau Foundation announces its Fourth Annual Youth Speech Contest

The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation is offering an opportunity through their Youth Speech Contest for young people to hone their speaking skills, sharpen their knowledge of agriculture and vie for \$1500 in prize money. The Fourth Annual MFB Foundation Youth Speech Contest offers contestants the chance to showcase their communication skills by writing a speech on the theme "Managing Rising Energy Costs on Today's Agricultural Operation." In addition, participants will have the opportunity to present their speech Sunday, Nov. 12 in conjunction with the Montana Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention at the Holiday Inn in Bozeman. The junior division contestants, ages 13 and younger, will present a speech two and one-half to four minutes in length and senior division contestants, ages 14-17, will present a speech five to seven minutes in length. Some County Farm Bureaus will hold a preliminary competition prior to the state contest. Contestants will be judged on the content and composition of the speech as well as the delivery. The MFB Foundation will award the \$1500 in prize money to first through third place winners in each category. Students who are age 18 and currently enrolled in high school at the time of the contest may elect to participate in either the speech contest or the Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet. (For more information on the YF&R Discussion Meet, visit MFBF's website, <http://www.mfbf.org/>). Forms must be completed and in the state office in Bozeman by November 1. A copy of the speech must be sent with the registration form. For more information or to receive a registration form, call Mariah Baumann, 406-534-3701, email [mariahb@mfbf.org](mailto:mariahb@mfbf.org) or visit our website, [www.mfbf.org](http://www.mfbf.org).

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## Junior Ag Loan Programs from the Montana Department of Agriculture

The Junior Agriculture Loan is available to active members of FFA, 4-H, and other recognized agricultural youth organizations are eligible for this program. The Montana Department of Agriculture may also make direct loans to youths unable to participate as members of such organizations. Parents or guardians must be willing to cooperate with prospective borrowers and have ample facilities available to provide for the project. Applicants should be between the ages of nine and twenty-one, Montana residents, and citizens of the United States of America. Youth ages 9-11 may borrow a maximum of \$3,500 for up to a five years. Youth ages 12-21 may borrow a maximum of \$8,500 for up to five years. Both are available at 6% simple interest annually. More than one member of a family may qualify for individual loans up to \$8,500 each. Individuals may borrow up to 90 percent of the total first year cost of the project. The rural Assistance Loan Program is available to individuals 18 years of age and above for a maximum of \$50,000, terms vary by loan type. Application forms are available on the web: [www.agr.state.mt.us/business/JrAgLoans.asp](http://www.agr.state.mt.us/business/JrAgLoans.asp)

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## Ag Ambassadors Available for Club Presentations

The Agricultural Ambassadors for the MSU College of Agriculture have offered to speak as guest presenters at 4-H club meetings in Gallatin County. Their topic is "Going the College" and includes insights into choosing a college, financial aid, and living in dorms as well as answering audience questions. They can tailor their talk for 15 to 45 minutes depending on your club needs. Call the 4-H office at 388-3213 if interested.

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## 4-H Legislative Breakfast Planned

The Montanans for 4-H are again holding the 4-H Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday, January 16, 2007 from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena. As is the past, Gallatin County will send a small delegation of 4-H members and leaders to host our area legislators during the breakfast. We will share a table with them and discuss 4-H in our county until the overall program begins. Often times, legislators will offer a tour after breakfast and will lead our group through the capitol. If you're interested in being a part of our delegation, please contact the 4-H office at 388-3213 and we'll put you on the list.

